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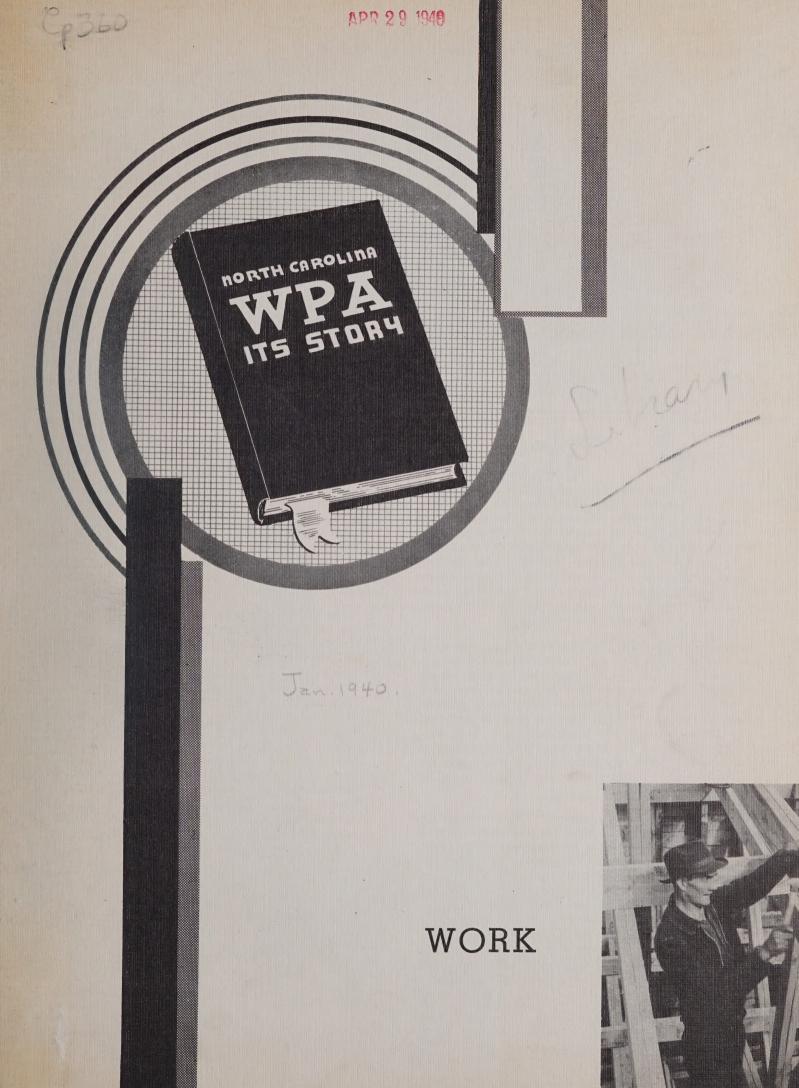


Collection of North Caroliniana

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M. J. Miller, Regional Director C. C. McGinnis, State Administrator Col. F. C. Harrington, Work Projects Commissioner Federal Works Agency

North Carolina Work Projects Administration

Raleigh

GLENN L. BOBBITT Director of Operations

MRS. MAY E. CAMPBELL Director, Professional and Service Projects

C. K. SPICER Director of Finance E. G. Dorsey Director of Employment

MISS CHLORIS KELLUM Associate Employment Director

FRED J. COHN Director, Information Service

WPA 9t1. Story

To January 1, 1940

Information Service

You will see over three hundred pictures of projects in this pamphlet. Obviously, not all of the 3984 WPA-completed projects can be shown. What you will not see here are the heartaches and despair caused tens of thousands in North Carolina when they were caught between the grindstones of a maladjusted economy—nor will you see that little spark—that little spark we call hope—which has been fanned within the breasts of close on to 125,000 of our state who have been given gainful employment by WPA when no other source for jobs was open for them.

Yes, the basic reasons for WPA have been to provide work for needy, unemployed men and women on worthwhile constructions and services. We all know that it is the needy individual around whom the WPA program revolves. We know that the WPA does not function alone but in partnership with the state of North Carolina and its counties, cities, and towns, which now contribute more than one-fourth of project costs. We know that those governmental agencies, not the WPA, say what persons are eligible for work relief and what improvements and services are to be carried on in each locality.

We have heard of the large amounts of money spent for work relief. North Carolina's press has told about most of WPA accomplishments. What we have not had is a complete inventory—the credit side of the ledger—the results obtained from making investments in the welfare of human beings—our neighbors, friends, compatriots. They have not been people in Indo-China or some such place as Borneo whose noses have been kept above water, but North Carolinians. They have not been working on schemes to make Hindustan square, nor have they been regimented to build war implements to destroy us or others. They have been working on needed public improvements to make life better for themselves and for us all.

What an average of 38,500 men and women, working four and one-half years for their State, Federal and local govern-

ments, have produced in return for their wages is shown here—

+ + +

A while ago, the North Carolina League of Municipalities and the State Planning Board asked the several state departments, counties, cities, and towns for an unbiased appraisal of WPA—Some 165 reports were sent in. The following is a digest of those reports:

"The WPA has been most efficient . . . The work has been useful and permanent . . . Relief workers have given honest labor to the best of their abilities . . . The workmanship has been good. Many instances are noted where the finished projects were the equal of similar jobs done by private contract . . . Work relief is a method better than direct relief for caring for the unemployed . . . The work has helped to keep relief workers fit for private jobs and many reports show that workers have improved their skill status by the training given by competent foremen . . . The public facilities built are permanent and are of such nature that they serve the majority of people in each subdivision. Morale and health standards of entire communities have been raised through construction and social welfare projects."

Eighty-five percent of the Federal money spent has gone into the pockets of WPA workers as wages. These small salaries have been immediately spent locally for the bare necessities of living, aiding local commerce. The rest of the money, including most of the sponsors' contributions have gone for the purchase of materials, equipment and supplies, and such non-labor costs. The material and supply dollar was injected into commerce, making other jobs.

Director, Information Service.



















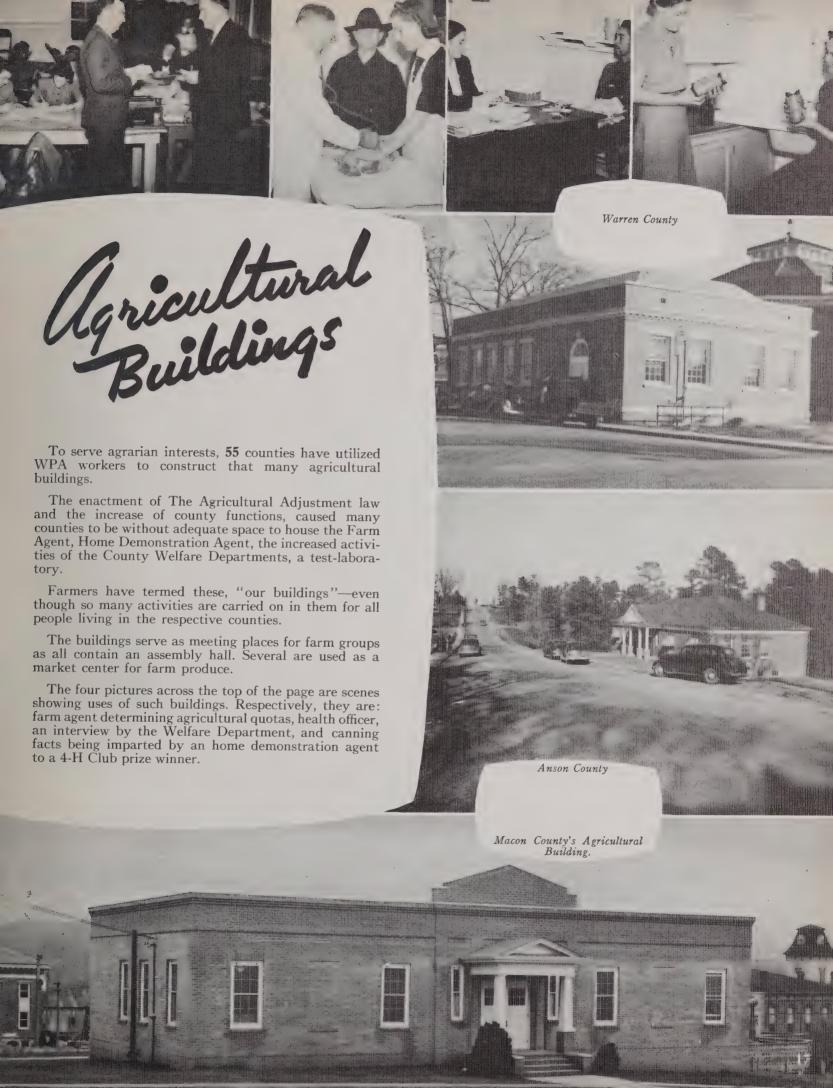




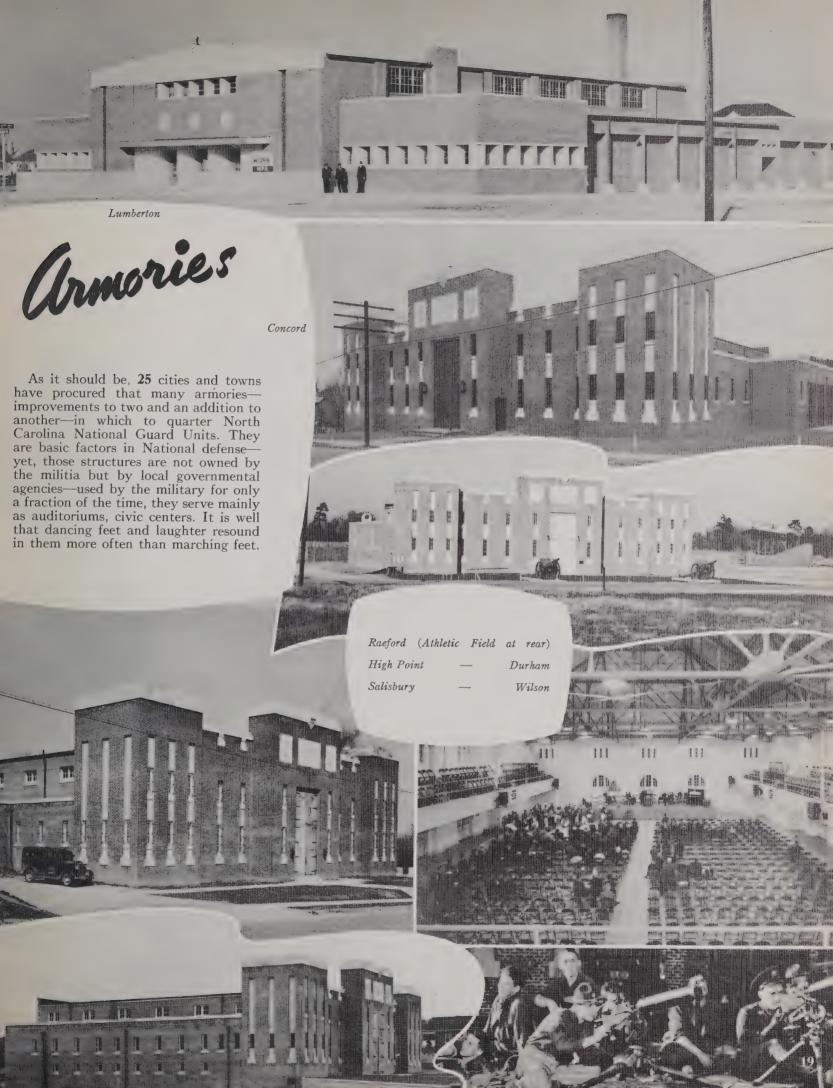






















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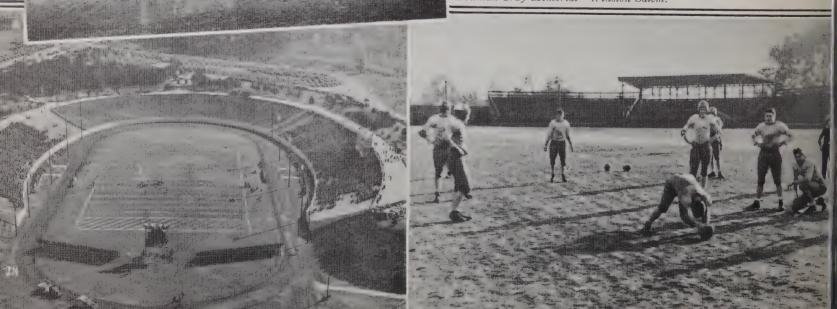








Bowman Gray Memorial-Winston-Salem.



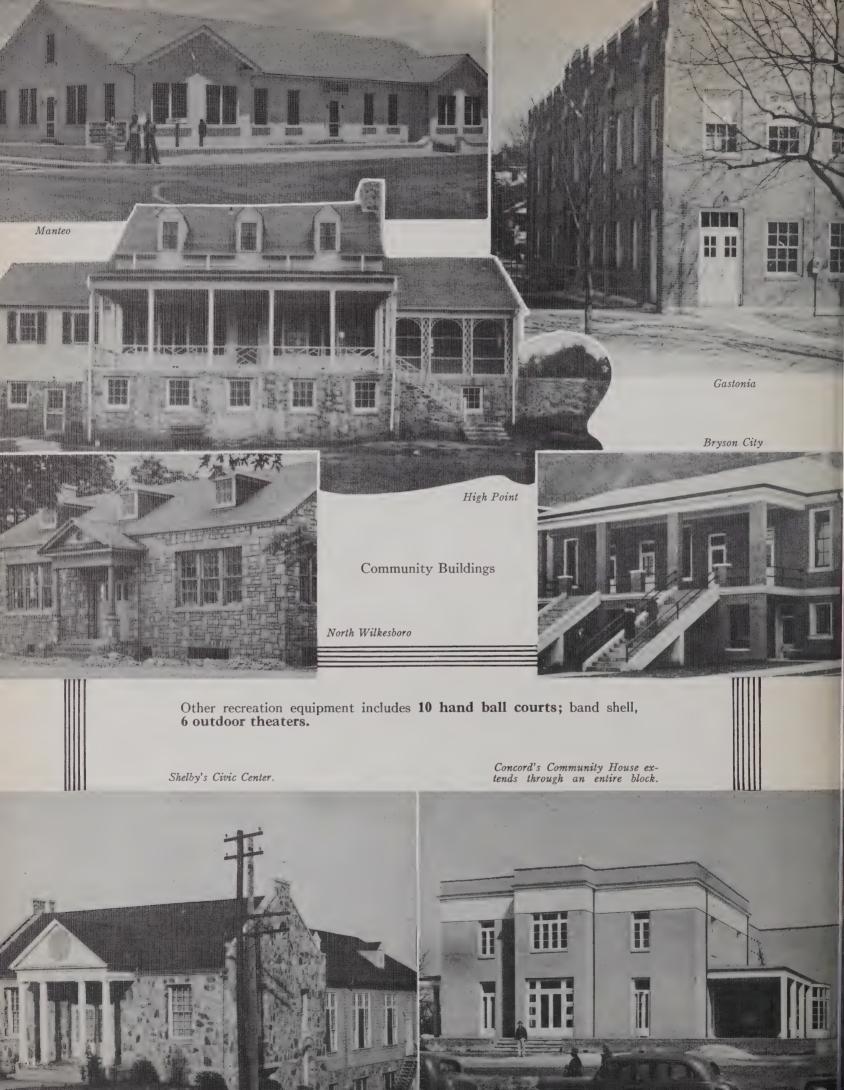












Professional and Service Projects

Though a person is a woman or has a white collar around his neck, she or he can get just as hungry as a manual laborer. The child of an unemployed stenographer can suffer just as much as a child of a needy stone mason.

Also, in this realm of intangibles, WPA has turned manpower from being wasted into productiveness. The state is the richer for their labors.

As in the construction field, projects have been selected to which to assign the individual in accordance with past work experience or aptitude. Carpenters have not been given work digging ditches nor have teachers been placed as seamstresses.

The way in which our unskilled women and "white collar" workers have contributed to the betterment of North Carolina are shown on this and the succeeding nine pages.

4. 4.

Nearly six million (5,983 015) garments have been made in Sewing Rooms, distributed to needy people, contributing to their comfort, self-respect.

Christmas toys for underprivileged children are sewing room by-products . . .











All material (as shown in the above sequence) is cut in six centers, assembled there and distributed to the 103 sewing rooms... The production is rapid, efficient...







The middle picture (above) is inservice training for House-keepers' Aides—A service many WPA women can perform because it is a "trade", they know—The aides are assigned to needy homes where the head of the family is incapacited and

there is no money with which to hire help—The aide tends baby, cooks, cleans and does all household chores—They have so served 258,782 times—Those in need have helped those in need—







Sewing has not monopolized the production field; 1,250,804 articles, other than garments, were made; such as mattresses, quilts, comforters, cot pads, furniture and the repairs thereof,

Christmas toys—These too, were given to those on the low rungs of our economic ladder.





WPA workers have distributed **surplus com-modities**, (foodstuffs, clothing, etc.) in all counties throughout the entire period.

White and Negro Literacy Classes.





Education

Education for those of any age—seeking it—must have a definite place in our democracy.

During the past trying years our people in need have asked for sustenance for bodily needs—and strangely, for more knowledge. The WPA Education program has supplied both. To an average of 775 unemployed teachers, work has been given.

They have not erected armories but they have built richer lives, better citizens.

Developing the state's human resources, they have taught 167,377 in the seven phase program embracing literacy, homemaking, parent, vocational, workers', general adult education and nursery schools.

Though North Carolina can be proud of many things, it could never boast of its lack of illiterates. Denied that privilege in their youth, 73,968 now know the mystery of the written word. These with others have been advancing in functional literacy.



Typing, handicraft, etc. are vocational subjects. At left is a class in looping—a hosiery making process—from which many have obtained private employment. Above is a domestic training course. Below: being instructed as butlers . . .





The appalling death rate on our highways shows the need for knowledge of safe driving, including traffic regulations—At left is a tableau at a **safe driving school** "comméncement." Our motor lanes will be safer for 3,655 having "graduated" in safe driving practices.

Right: Teachers have their problems. This one walks 24 miles a day to conduct his classes.





Women are taught sanitation, hygiene, budgeting, sewing—all of the items necessary to stretch low incomes to make a house a home.

Parent visitations are invaluable to show them how to obtain a better life for the family.



Nursery Schools

The beginning of the road to healthier, happier, better lives has been smoothed for 1,350 children, three through five years old. The Education Program has operated 20 Nursery Schools,

separately for whites and negroes. All children are selected from relief families.

The day in a negro nursery school is shown. After the children are delivered at 8:30, comes playtime; then washing up for lunch—lunch with milk aplenty—a nap—then story telling and playing till time to go home.













Bookmending



Bookmobile

Library Service

Good books are essential to the continuous process of education.

This account supplements the school libraries carried on in all counties in the state by the Department of Public Instruction.

Otherwise, before the WPA Library Project, 41 counties were without library service, while 26 counties had only partial service. After WPA, all 100 counties have such service in 159 public libraries. Besides, the project operates in 549 school units.

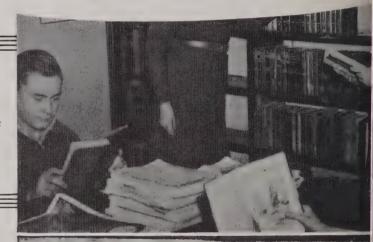
Workers, other than librarians, have repaired, restored to usefulness 4,206,437 library books, catalogued 92,411 volumes.

Books are carried to rural homes, cross-road stores, places without libraries, by sixteen "bookmobiles."

Two and three-quarter million volumes have been circulated



Public and School Libraries



The state of the s



The art project has had teaching as its main motif. An average of 1,200 children, yearly, have been instructed in painting, woodwork, handicraft, block printing and art appreciation—Demonstrative galleries have been maintained in Greenville, where puppetry has been outstanding, Raleigh, Greensboro, Manteo, Winston-Salem, Sanford and Wilmington. In the latter city, the well-rounded program of The Museum of Art has been a most important civic asset.





Music

At first, one main endeavor of the music project was the development of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra—Improving times caused many of the group to obtain work with private bands.

The only group now maintained is the well-received Greensboro band of 30 pieces.

The other 45 musicians, having work by reason of the project, are teaching music to school children, organizing and directing bands, drum and bugle corps.



The 18 Negro Choral Groups have been organized by Nell Hunter. Their performances have been widely acclaimed. The picture below is a chorus as it entrained for Washington to sing at a White House entertainment.





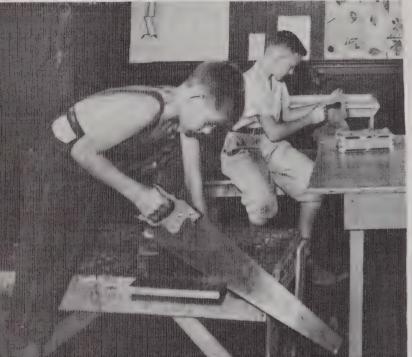
Clerical

In ninety-six counties public records have been indexed, cross-indexed and copied. Volumes by the hundreds, deed books, vital statistics and the like were nearing destruction. They have been preserved for posterity—while the accessibility to those records has been greatly enhanced.









Recreational Leadership

The masses are dependent for recreation, facilities and leadership, upon provisions made by municipalities.

Treks to seashore and mountain is not within the means of low income people. For the usual vacationist, a week or two out of each 52 weeks, crowds in too much exercise, suntan, everything. For year around diversion, he must look to what he finds in his home community.

The physical aids have been sketched. The Recreation project concerns itself with leadership—teaching young and old "the art of living together" and how to spend leisure time joyfully, profitably.

Before WPA, only 6 cities had permanent recreation programs.

Now WPA operates 172 units in 82 towns and cities—with sports, indoor games, crafts, dramatics, rythm bands, camps, community sings and almost everything tending towards wholesome off hours; 542 recreation leaders direct a total of 572,648 men, women and children, monthly, in leisure activities.





Writers

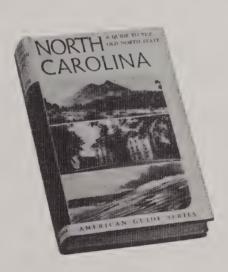
"For the first time in its whole history North Carolina has an adequate guide book. Indeed, it is more than that. For the native North Carolinian who needs no guide, this book is the best brief general reference book about the State of North Carolina that has ever been published."—News and Observer.

New York Times Book Review: "Their true stories, as told to members of the Federal Writers' Project, are stranger than most fiction that has been written against a background of Southern scenes. Textile workers are the heroes of life histories that are told with the simplicity of a Chekhov; share croppers, tenant farmers, landlords and workers at many odd jobs, come vividly to life. The result is one of the most revealing books that has been written on folkways that largely make the South what it is . . . The Federal Writers' Project has produced a book that is as important as any that has been written since the cultural renaissance dawned below the Potomac. The writers who contributed to it deserve well of the future."—(Twenty of the thirty-five stories were written in North Carolina.) "These Are Our Lives".



Presenting first copy of North Carolina Guide book to Governor Clyde R. Hoey. The others: E. J. Bjorkman, Supervisor Writers' Project; C. C. McGinnis, May E. Campbell, Director Professional and Service Projects, and R. Bruce Etheridge, Director North Carolina Department Conservation and Development, the sponsor.







The North Carolina section of the Intracoastal Waterway Guide was prepared by WPA writers of this State.

Historical Survey Records Survey



"The series will be of great value to genealogists, historians, sociologists, lawyers and others who have occasion to use county records. The records in our county courthouses touch upon almost every phase of life".

-Dr. C. C. Crittenden.





Preparing material for instruction in the public schools by visual aids.



A swimming pool photograph shows what WPA workers have done. Pictures cannot adequately tell the story of how governmental agencies were benefitted by the several survey projects.

In 13 cities, the **Real Property Survey** is complete. Those municipalities now have a basis for planning expansion of utilities, zoning, slum clearance, fire protection.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities has sponsored three projects, which it deemed vital to good government. They are: **The Municipal Practices Survey**, now operating in 200 cities and towns; **The Codification of Municipal**

Charters and Ordinances—30 local governmental units have taken advantage of this service; The Installation of Adequate Police Records, now carried forward in eight cities.



These are the District Managers (except as noted) who are the administrative heads of the 9 WPA districts—Headquarters are indicated: Front: Lee A. Wallace (Williamston), A. E. Perry, Assistant Director of Operations, L. J. Jordan (Wilmington), E. W. Cole, (Winston-Salem), Glenn L. Bobbitt, Director of Operations.

Back: T. P. Richardson (Charlotte), A. H. Kennedy (Albemarle), C. M. Crutchfield (North Wilkesboro), A. F. Weaver, Jr. (Asheville), Jas. A. McGeady (Durham), D. B. Black (Smithfield).

+ + +

Seven volumes have been published as the work of the Federal Archives Survey.

Tax Maps are being plotted by land surveyors, tabulators and aerial photographers.

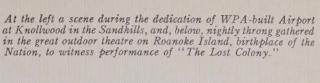
The Youth Survey—what is happening to our school children—will be published in April. The work is finished.

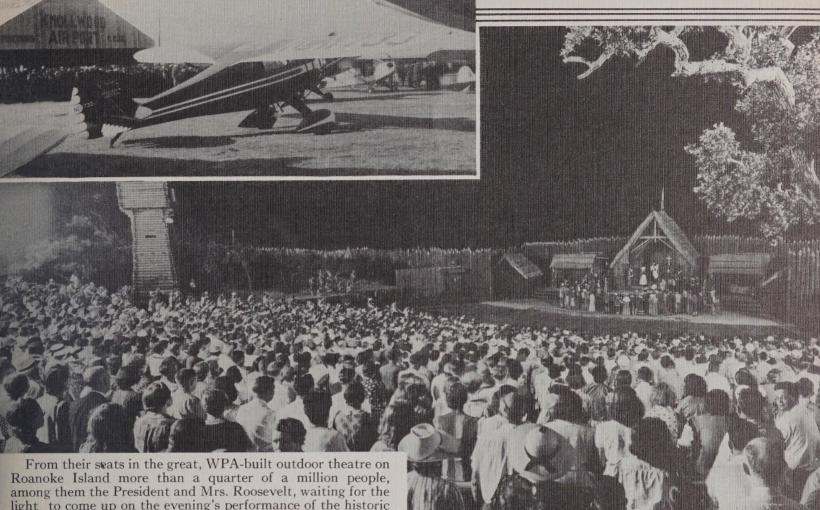
Archeological and Mineral Surveys have been run.











From their seats in the great, WPA-built outdoor theatre on Roanoke Island more than a quarter of a million people, among them the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, waiting for the light to come up on the evening's performance of the historic drama which re-creates the first tragic chapter of English-speaking civilization in America, have looked out across the dark waters of Roanoke Sound to the winged pylon that crowns the hill that was the cradle of aviation.

By night the great memorial to the Wright Brothers atop Kill Devil Hill glows like a jewel against the sea beyond and against the purple sky of the night, and instinctively to the thoughts of them who wait in the gloom of the great theatre comes reflective wonder that in the chance of history that two of the Nations' great landmarks should be closely spaced, here within sight of each other—the Birthplace of the Nation and the Birthplace of Aviation.

The eight hundred and fifty two feet of that first flight of that fragile thing of bamboo and cheese cloth has lengthened, now, into more than eight thousand miles in sustained flight, continents have been made as near as adjoining counties were a generation ago. The earth is crossed with the lanes of their flight, and is dotted with harbors where they find haven, and at night the sky is marked for them as are these waters, with beacons and with sign-posts . . . Atop the great pylon yonder a long finger of light beckons them home . . .

It has been the privilege of WPA to have a hand in the advancement of aviation in North Carolina. Within ten minutes of this cradle of aviation, as a ship flies, there is now approaching completion the most modern air base owned by the United States Coast Guard, and within the boundaries of the State there are more than a score of modern airports, completed or nearing completion, with an aggregate area of more than 3,000 acres, with concrete runways and all the facilities that servicing a ship of the air requires . . . Runways

of these airports total 19,405 feet in length, or 21 times the distance of the first flight.

Markers, aerial sign-posts, have been installed at 443 points within the state and by just glancing down, the aeronaut can, within a minute or so, always orient himself if he should be confused in the reckoning of his course. Beside these airports of the first rank, WPA has helped with fields that are classed as emergency fields. Altogether, in the lack of any other agency equipped to cope with the needs of an advancing means of transportation and communication, the WPA has been an incalculable help to aviation in its most critical decade of development.

And helping as it has to make man's dream of wings real, in no lesser degree has the WPA been helpful in America's repossession of the forgotten dream out of which grew the beginnings of its civilization. "The Lost Colony" has become an American institution.

WPA has co-operated with each season's production, and will co-operate again this year with the fourth season's presentation of the historic drama which begins on the night of Saturday, June 29, and continues five nights each week through Labor Day. Spectators must pass through reconstructed Fort Raleigh, a National Shrine completed by WPA.





